This material may be considered "Unrestricted", except that no reference shall be made to OSS. RESTRICTED

097.3
Z1902
No. 878.5

12269

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

Research and Analysis Branch

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REFERENCE DIVISION
RECEIVED
JAN 23 1947

E: Germany
1.26- R

R & A No. 878.5

GERMAN MILITARY GOVERNMENT OVER EUROPE

1939-1943

Methods and Organization of Nazi Controls

THE TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC TROOPS IN OCCUPIED EUROPE

8 November 1943

Description

This paper is a section of a comprehensive study of German military government in Occupied Europe. It deals with the technical and economic troops of the German Army in Occupied Europe, with Organization Todt, the Reich Labor Service, the Technical Emergency Help, the N.S. Motor Corps, and the Fire Police Regiment. Special attention is devoted to the organization of the Rear Army Zone in the East.

E: Germany
2.23

E: Germany
2.5.1

E: Germany
3.9

If and when this study outlives its usefulness to you, kindly return it to:

Office of Strategic Services
Director, Research and Analysis Branch
25th and E Streets, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

(28268)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	1
I. The Technical and Economic Troops of the German Armed Forces	3
A. During Operations	3
1. Technical Commands	3
2. The General of the Technical Troops.	3
3. Functional Division of the Troops.	4
B. In the Rear Army Zone	4
1. The Economic Staff East and the Economic Inspections	5
2. Agricultural Resources	6
3. Industrial Activities	6
II. The Organization Todt in Occupied Europe	7
A. Strength	7
B. Labor Conditions	8
C. Structure	9
D. The OT and the Armed Forces	11
E. OT Units Abroad,	12
III. The Reich Labor Service in Occupied Europe	13
A. Labor Service and Armed Forces	13
B. Structure	14
C. Operations in Occupied Europe	15
IV. The Technische Nothilfe (TN) in Occupied Europe	17
A. Structure and Strength	17
B. TN and Police on the Regional Level.	18
C. TN in Army Rear Zone and during Operations	18
V. The National Socialist Motor Corps (NSKK) in Occupied Europe	20
VI. Fire Protection Police Regiments	21

THE TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC TROOPS IN OCCUPIED EUROPE

INTRODUCTION

By technical and economic troops is understood the technical economic units of the armed forces and those semi-military organizations outside the armed forces which fulfill functions usually performed by army units. The term thus includes:

(1) The technical and economic troops of the German armed forces

(2) The Reich Labor Service

(3) The Technical Emergency Help (Technische Nothilfe)

(4) The Organization Todt

(5) The Fire Police

(6) The National Socialist Motor Corps (NSKK)

The German army is composed of a variety of formations. The German press quite recently summarized the various units fighting on the Eastern front, and mentioned the following: 1/

(1) The Wehrmacht and the Waffen SS

(2) The organizations employed (eingesetzt) by the Wehrmacht, namely:

(a) The Order Police

(b) The Customs Guards

(c) The Technical Emergency Help

(d) The Labor Service

(e) The Organization Todt

(f) The Voluntary Nursing Organization

(g) The Reichsbahn

(h) The Reichspost

(i) The National Socialist Flying Corps

(j) The National Socialist Motor Corps

(k) The National Socialist Public Welfare Organization (NSV)

1/ Minsk Press (Plain Cable from Bern, 8 July 1943).

(3) Special Commands, Operational Groups, and Operational Commands of the Security Police and the Security Service.

(4) Higher SS and Police Leaders operating with commands of the rear army zones for the Order Police formations serving under theater commanders.

(5) Wehrmacht organizations of Allied states and voluntary organizations in uniform.

This summary gives an exhaustive survey of the various units fighting within or with the German army. The units mentioned above, however, also fulfill tasks that go beyond fighting. They act as technical-administrative organs for the control of occupied territory, especially in the army rear zones. It is this aspect which will primarily be discussed in the following pages.

I. THE TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC TROOPS OF THE GERMAN ARMED FORCES

A. DURING OPERATIONS

1. Technical Commands

The Supreme Command of the Armed Forces was organized prior to the invasion of Poland technical commands (Technische Kommandos). 1/ Their personnel was then supplied by the Technical Emergency Help (Technische Nothilfe) but they were incorporated in the armed forces. They moved into occupied territory with the combat troops. Their tasks were: to facilitate the supply of the German army; to salvage raw materials, machines, plants and all other equipment; to put into operation all those industrial installations and public utilities that were necessary to carry on military activities. 2/ The Technical Command during the Polish campaign moved into Warsaw as early as 30 September 1939, that is, the very same day as Warsaw's surrender, and started at once the repair of the electric, gas, and water systems.

The Commanders of the Technical Commands were called in the early stage simply "Kommandeur" and, in the later stage, Armeewirtschaftsfuehrer (Army Economic Leader).

2. The General of the Technical Troops

(a) In the early course of the Russian campaign (August 1942) a General of the Technical Troops (General der Technischen Truppen) was appointed to serve on the General Staff of the Army with his office at the headquarters of the Army High Command. 3/ The General of the Technical Troops belongs to the staff of the Quartermaster in the Army General Staff. He advises the General Staff in all questions coming under his jurisdiction and deals with all problems concerning the Technical Troops in the staff of the Quartermaster General, 4/ who is his immediate superior. He suggests the operations of the technical troops and he issues the orders concerning them. The Armament Division (Waffenabteilung) of the Technical Troops in the office of the Chief of Army Equipment (Chef der Heeresruestung und Befeehshaber des Ersatzheeres -- Ch H Ruest u. B d E) 4/ is at his disposal. The General of the Technical Troops has the powers of a Divisional Commander.

1/ P. Muench (Commander of a Technical Command), "Einsatz der Technischen Kommandos in Warschau" in VDI, vol. 84, No. 8, 24 February 1940.

2/ Lieut. Col. (ret.) Benary, "Die Technischen Truppen," in Koelnische Zeitung, 30 March 1942.

3/ Allgemeine Heeresmitteilungen, Vol, 9, No. 18, 7 August 1942; Ruling No. 635.

4/ Order of Battle of the German Army (MIS) April 1943, pp. 5-7.

4/ Order of Battle of the German Army (MIS) April 1943, pp. 5-7.

This centralization of auxiliary troops within the German Army has not been confined to the technical troops alone. Similar generals have been appointed for the propaganda troops 1/ and for the transportation services. 2/ It seems to be clear, however, that the powers of the General of the Technical Troops are confined exclusively to the front line and do not extend to the army rear zone; for it a different organization has been established.

The Commanders of the Technical Commands were usually assisted by a staff of three officers and by a varied number of technicians selected from among the technical troops according to the work to be done. The following functional division of the technical troops during operations can be identified:

3. Functional Division of the Troops

(a) A mining battalion (Bergbaubattalion) divided into Mining Companies. The battalion and the companies are composed of miners who have been inducted into the Army. Their task is to make the most immediate repairs of those coal mines damaged either in military operations or by the scorched earth policy of the Russians. They are popularly known as Kumpels in Feldgrau, that is, miners in field gray. 3/

(b) Agricultural-technical platoons (landwirtschaftlich-technische Zuege), composed of skilled grain mill masters and grain mill workers, also of workers formerly employed in refrigeration and canning factories. They move into the theater of operations in order to establish grain mills, repair or set up refrigeration and canning facilities to assist in the supply of the German Army. 4/

(c) Construction companies (Baukompanien) are possibly known as "the men with the black mirrors" because their uniforms are faced with black. Their tasks are obvious. 5/

There is probably a much greater variety of functional divisions but the details are of no great interest to our study.

B. IN THE REAR ARMY ZONE

While the technical troops under the General of the Technical Troops are primarily engaged in securing the supply

---

1/ On the Chief of the Propaganda Troops see Allgem. Heeresm. Vol. 9, No. 10, 7 April 1942, Ruling No. 286.

2/ Mitteilungsblatt des Wehrwirtschafts-und Ruestungsamtes, Vol. 1, No. 6, 25 March 1942; three such generals were appointed for the Eastern front.

3/ Deutsche Bergwerkszeitung, 19 March 1943.

4/ Hamburger Fremdenblatt, 5 January 1943.

5/ Die Weltwoche (Zuerich), 11 July 1941.

for the combatant forces, the technical and economic troops in the rear army zone (rueckwaertiges Heeresgebiet) aim at the technical and economic reorganization and administration of all agricultural and industrial resources, whether of material things or of labor power, for the German war effort. The organization of the rear army zone is thus institutionalized to a much higher degree than is the set-up of the technical troops in the theater of operations.

1. The Economic Staff East and the Economic Inspections

Such rear army zones can, of course, only be found in the East, because fighting in all other theaters of war was much too short to necessitate the establishment of a definite rear army zone with an organization of its own. The rear army zone in the East extends from the eastern boundary of the two Reich Commissariats to the front line. 1/ Its economic exploitation comes under the jurisdiction of the German Army, although the personnel is composed not only of officers and army civil servants but to a considerable extent of civilians hired by the German Army.

The economic organization of the rear army zone is concentrated in the Wirtschaftsstab Ost (Economic Staff East), located at Berlin 2/ and working together under the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces. The Economic Staff East operate three Wirtschaftsinspektionen (Economic Inspections), namely the Economic Inspection North, Economic Inspection Middle, and Economic Inspection South.

Each of these Economic Inspections is functionally divided into so-called Chefgruppen (Main Departments). The following exist in each Inspection:

Chefgruppe W (Wirtschaft---economics)

Chefgruppe La (Landwirtschaft---agriculture)

Chefgruppe Arbeit (Labor)

Chefgruppe Foho (Forst und Holz---forests and timber)

Chefgruppe BB (Betriebsfoerderung undBerufserziehung---promotion of plants and vocational training)

The Economic Inspection South has, in addition, a Chefgruppe for the Donetz Coal Mines.

Each of the Economic Inspections is regionally subdivided into Wirtschaftskommandos (Economic Commands). In most of the Economic Commands the functional division of the Economic Inspections is repeated.

1/ Voelkischer Beobachter (Berlin edition), 17 August 1943.

2/ Der Neue Tag, 28 July 1943.

3/ Voelkischer Beobachter (Berlin edition), 17 August 1943 and Frankfurter Zeitung, 25, 26, and 29 June 1943.

(28268)

2. Agricultural Resources

It is obvious that the major activity of this organization is to be found in the field of agriculture and labor. The operation of the Economic Inspections and Economic Commands in the labor field is discussed in the section "Labor Controls in Occupied Europe". The agricultural organization operates through the above-mentioned agricultural-technical platoons, which collect tractors and other agricultural machines, investigate the state of mills, refrigeration and canning facilities and repair and build and import such agricultural machinery as is necessary for the fullest utilization of the agricultural resources.

For the cultivation of agricultural products and their delivery, each Economic Command operates through a number of regional officials, namely through 8 to 12 Gebietslandwirte (Regional Farmers); each regional farmer controls 4 Kreislandwirte (County Farmers), and each County Farmer has under him 3 or 4 Stuetzpunktleiter (Base Point Leaders). These officials cooperate closely with the corporations set up by the Reich Commissars in the occupied Eastern territories in order to insure the delivery of agricultural products for Germany, especially the Zentralhandelsgeselleschaft Ost (for agricultural products proper) and the Ostfaser, limited liability company (for natural and synthetic fibers). A fuller discussion of these and similar corporations will be found in the regional study of the Eastern occupied territories.

3. Industrial Activities

As to the organization of industry, the discussion of the Economic Inspections and Economic Commands is, of course, much more limited due to the almost universal destruction of industrial plants in Eastern Occupied Europe. 1/ The Chefgruppe W is concerned with the repair and operation of smaller industrial plants which are needed especially for maintaining a supply of electric power and to insure the operation of motor vehicles. In addition they collect scrap for shipment to Germany.

The only major activities in the industrial field are the textile and building material industries. The Inspections and Commands operate what the Germans call the "Industrial Remainder" (industrielle Rest) in these industries.

The Technical Commands and the Economic Inspections cooperate closely with the various semi-military organizations mentioned on page 1.

1/ "Die Technischen Truppen im Ostfeldzug," in VDI, 23 January 1943.

II. THE ORGANIZATION TODT IN OCCUPIED EUROPE

A. STRENGTH

The late Minister Dr. Fritz Todt organized the Organization Todt (OT) in May 1938 primarily from the Reich Labor Service. In order to satisfy his ambition, Albert Speer, Todt's competitor, obtained the permission to establish the so-called Baustandarte Speer (Speer's Construction Squad) with functions similar to those of the Organization Todt. With the death of Todt and the promotion of Speer to all positions previously held by Todt, the OT and the Construction Squad Speer now form a single organization though retaining their different names. The OT appears now to be directed by Speer in his capacity as Minister for Armaments and Armament Production.

The OT is reported to have at its disposal 1,000,000 to 1,200,000 workers. Most of them are foreign. These may be divided into the following groups:

	Estimated Number
1. Direct front workers (Frontarbeiter)	
(a) Germans employed on a long-term basis. This group includes the managerial, technical, and command personnel of the whole organization in addition to skilled and unskilled workers	200,000
(b) Germans employed on a short-term basis. .	200,000
(c) Foreigners employed on a long-term basis 1/.	250,000
(d) Foreigners employed on a short-term basis for a single project or group of projects	250,000
2. Indirect front workers (Frontarbeiter) Germans and foreigners employed through the incorporation of whole construction firms, i.e., owners and/or managers, workers, and salaried employees and equipment	550,000
3. Prisoners of war whose services are made available to the OT by the competent military authorities.	to 750,000

The disposition of the OT strength as of July 1943 is reported as follows:

Atlantic wall, Holland to Spanish frontier. . . .	500,000
South of France	100,000
Norway and Denmark, ...	130,000
Southern Europe	200,000
Russia and the East	500,000

1/ Volunteer and conscripted.

These figures add up to 1,430,000, a total which is greater than that given by any other source. They represent, however, the probable relative disposition of OT forces at that time with a fair degree of accuracy. Since then, the military situation in Europe has changed considerably. Resultant changes in the OT which have been reported are: the transfer of OT men to the Alps for fortification there, and the building up of construction gangs in Germany for the rehabilitation of the Ruhr. In connection with the latter, the OT has constructed industrial plants, camouflage, and air raid shelters, rebuilt roofs, and performed other similar tasks which are new to it.

B. LABOR CONDITIONS

The members of the OT are now called front workers (Frontarbeiter). Two quite distinct types of front workers exist. The first is in the direct employment of the OT. The second belongs only indirectly to the OT due to the incorporation into the OT of whole construction firms, that is, of managers, owners, workers, salaried employees and equipment. We may therefore call the two types of workers direct and indirect front workers respectively. The indirect front workers are thus controlled by a dual authority, by their employers and by the leaders of the OT. Both types are under military discipline; both have to wear uniforms. Although no evidence is available, it is safe to assume that the indirect front workers are used primarily for construction of specific fortifications, while the direct front workers have the permanent task of carrying out large-scale repair work on roads, bridges, etc., and in addition, of assisting in the execution of large-scale temporary projects.

By decree of the OT, front workers of the first or direct type do not receive wages, but so-called Wehrsold which corresponds to the pay of the soldier. The wages of all those indirectly employed are regulated by a special wage regulation, issued by the Special Trustee of Labor for the OT, Dr. Schmelter, the Reich Trustee of Labor for Frankfurt a.M. 1/ The Special Trustee has issued two wage regulations: the first on 15 October 1942, 2/ the second, which amends the first, on 10 December 1942. 3/

The ordinary indirect employees of the Organization Todt must work forty-eight hours, sixty hours are required of machinists and stokers, and seventy-two hours of guards, attendants, cooks, and sanitary personnel. Overseers, etc., receive 0.96 mark per hour, unskilled workers, 0.60, while juveniles under eighteen years receive 4/5ths of the above-quoted wages. A certain number of workers are entitled to

---

1/ See Reichsarbeitsblatt, 1942, #16, Part I, p. 274, Microfilm #222.

2/ See OSS document #29212.

3/ See Der Deutsche Volkswirt, #17, 22 January 1943.

"efficiency" wages. Each worker has a minimum of pay guaranteed if he is unable to perform his work due to an act of God. 1/ The dependents of a Todt worker who is killed, captured, or missing receive his wages for the current month and three additional months, while the headquarters may grant in addition a single bonus. Thereafter, the dependents receive compensation according to the established Workmen's Compensation Laws. Truck drivers and their assistants are exempted from this regulation and are placed under a special wage regulation which, however, does not cover those drivers who are in the direct employment of the Todt Organization. The amendment of 10 December 1943, effective 1 February 1943, established a fixed relation between wages for men and wages for women and thus reveals for the first time that women must be employed in considerable numbers.

The OT workers employed abroad are under the ultimate control of Dr. Schmelter who allocates OT workers for employment abroad, besides being the Special Trustee for all indirect OT workers. 2/ OT workers in Jugoslavia operate the Bor copper mines. They are mobilized by a "Bureau of Contact between the Belgrade Municipality and the OT at the Bor Mines". 3/ It is even asserted that they insure the daily free delivery of newspapers from Belgrade. 4/

The wage regulations given above apply not only to German workers but also to so-called "protected" workers (Schutzangehoerige) with the exception of Poles, Russians, and Germans who are enrolled in groups III and IV of the Volksliste in Poland. The wage regulations are less favorable for the latter groups. Discrimination between German and foreign members of the Organization Todt is also practised in other respects. Training camps are maintained for foreign workers. The foreigners are organized in units which are led by Germans, though inferior supervisory positions are held by native front workers. 5/

C. STRUCTURE

The structure of the Organization Todt has recently been reorganized. 6/ Speer remains the political chief of the organization, but Ministerial Director Dorsch directs its operations.

1/ A new wage regulation unifies the pay of all front workers "in the European space" (Krakauer Zeitung, 18 October 1942).

2/ Berliner Boersenzeitung, 8 May 1943. On French OT workers see L'Atelier (Paris), 13 March 1943, News Digest No. 1109.

3/ Novo Vreme, 25 March 1943, News Digest No. 1104.

4/ Op. Cit. 30 March 1943, News Digest, No. 1104.

5/ On a training camp of the Flemish O.T., see Bruesseler Zeitung, 18 June 1942, Microfilm #101.

6/ See Neues Wiener Tageblatt, 9 March 1943.

The central reorganization is divided into two departments, namely Administration and Frontfuehrung (Front Leadership). The latter, under a separate chief, is entrusted with the actual operation of the organization.

The construction projects are directed by the Chief Engineer and his staff:

The Frontfuehrung is divided into the following sections:

(a) Werbestelle, that is, a section dealing with propaganda for the OT.

(b) Personnel office for front leaders

(c) Personnel office for front workers

(d) Einsatzleitung, that is, direction of actual operations

(e) Wages and labor conditions

(f) Food and housing

There exist also an Intelligence and Security organization for the front workers and a Special Inspection for camouflage and gas protection.

Attached to the central organization are four different bodies:

(a) For indoctrination of the front workers

(b) For indoctrination of the front leaders

(c) An office for supply and combat material

(d) A representative of the Labor Front

The Organization Todt has a special medical corps and also a signal corps of its own. The control of motor vehicles, however, is left to the National Socialist Motor Corps (NSKK). 1/

All front workers are first collected in a main camp at Berlin (Haupterfassungslager). From there they are allocated to the various projects after having undergone medical examination and received some kind of training. This main camp was established in 1941 and is divided into three sections: the first for leaders and the permanent personnel, the second for German workers, and the third for foreigners. 2/

1/ See below.

2/ Voelkischer Beobachter, Berlin edition, 14 August 1943.

The leadership of the Organization Todt is thus divided into the technical and the political. In all operations the technical leader is also the political leader. If the situation is difficult, the technical leader is given assistance by men trained in mass manipulations. The Front Leadership consists usually of the front leader, the senior troop leader, the troop leader (in charge of supply) and the quartermaster.

The highest operational unit of the OT is called "Einsatzstab" and is attached to an Army Group (Heeresgruppe). It is usually divided into Contingents (Einsaetze) which are the kernel of the operational units. They, in turn, are subdivided into Units (Einheiten), each of which is composed of six Construction Troops (Bautruppen). The Construction Troop is usually the lowest operational unit and is ordinarily composed of 125 workers, though it may be subdivided into still smaller units (Kolonnen and Rotten).

D. THE OT AND THE ARMED FORCES

During military operations, the OT stands wholly at the disposal of the theater commander who uses its units according to his discretion. With the establishment of an Army Rear Force, its commander assumes control over the OT units. With the establishment of military government the OT Einsatzstaebe are organized for the territories under military government. The unit in France is called, for instance, Einsatzstab West. 1/ With the establishment of military government controls the Organization Todt usually takes up contact with all other German agencies that are engaged in construction projects, especially the Economic Group "Construction Industry" in the Reich Group "Industry," the Reich Guild of Building Artisans (for smaller building enterprises), and the regional deputies of the Commissioner General for Building Construction within the Four Year Plan Office. All these agencies are, in Occupied France, represented in the Verbindungstelle der deutschen Bauwirtschaft fuer die besetzten Westgebiete (Liaison Office of the German Construction Industry for the Occupied Western Territories). The director of this office in Paris is Regierungsbaumeister Koch; its manager is Regierungsbaumeister Dr. Naschold. The office is located in the Liaison Office, France, of the Organization of the German Economy in Paris. In this way the work of the Organization Todt is integrated with that of all other German agencies engaged either in building construction in France or in allocating raw materials for building. 2/

It must not be assumed, however, that the Einsatzstab West comes under the jurisdiction of the Military Commander for Occupied France, General v. Stuelpnagel. The OT's tasks are to assist the combatant forces. As a consequence, the OT in France is under the C.i.C. of the Army Group West, Field Marshal v. Rundstedt. Subordinate to Runstedt is the

---

1/ Neues Wiener Tagblatt, 28 January 1943. The leader is Oberbandirektor Weiss. See Voelkischer Beobachter, 16 May 1943 (Norddeutsche ed.)

2/ The chief of the Einsatzgruppe "Russia-South" is Professor Walter Brugmann, an architect, formerly chief of the Baustandarte Speer. See Muenchner Neueste Nachrichten, 21 June 1943.

Inspekteur Der Landesbefestigungen West (Inspector of the Fortifications West) who, in turn, is the actual operational chief of the OT in France. 1/ Its major task remains the construction of fortifications and its role has been defined as being a "link between the entrepreneur and government offices for the military mobilization of the German building economy." 2/

E. OT UNITS ABROAD

France: Einsatzstab West: Leader, Oberbaudirektor Weiss, Paris, Champs Elysees.

South Russia: Einsatzstab Russia-South: leader, Prof. Walter Brugmann

Norway: Einsatzgruppe Viking: leader, Dr. Ing Feuchtinger (also chief of the Hauptamt Technik of the "Sphere of Operations" of the NSDAP Norway) subdivided into the following:

Einsaetze: 1. Polarbereich (Arctic area) at Lakselv.

Leader: Luers. Oberbauleitungen at Kirkenes and Alta.

2. North Norway at Narvik.

Leader: Fickert. Oberbauleitungen at Narvik IF (fortifications), Narvik IIE (railroads), and Fauske.

3. Middle Norway at Trondheim.

Leader: Altinger. Oberbauleitungen at Rana, Trondheim, Andalnes, Bergen, Toensberg, and Kristianssund. Strength in Norway about 35,000 in the summer of 1943.

Denmark: Einsatz Denmark at Copenhagen.

1/ Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, 13 April 1943.

2/ Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, 19 May 1943.

III. THE REICH LABOR SERVICE IN OCCUPIED EUROPE

A. LABOR SERVICE AND ARMED FORCES

The Reich Labor Service is based on the statute of 26 June 1935, 1/ as amended on 8 September 1939. 2/ Three major executive decrees have been issued containing important provisions. The decree of the Ministerial Council for the Defense of the Reich of 20 December 1939, promulgated the continuation of the Labor Service during the war and made labor service the condition for service in the armed forces during the war.

We discuss here exclusively the male labor service although even girls are incorporated into the "second army." 3/ The Labor Service has emerged from the "Voluntary National Socialist Labor Service," and is now a Reich institution. Its chief is Konstantin Hierl, with the title "Reich Labor Leader," now also formally independent of the Reich Ministry of the Interior. 4/ Liaison with the National Socialist Party is established by the appointment of Hierl as Party Reichsleiter.

The Labor Service is divided into Arbeitsgaue which cover not only the Old Reich but the incorporated territory including the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia. Each Gau is subdivided into 6 to 9 Labor Groups, each Group into 5 to 8 Divisions (Abteilungen), a division is divided into troops, and a troop into platoons.

The Labor Service maintains a large number of schools for boys and girls.

The Labor Service was exclusively engaged in peaceful activities up to April 1938. It assisted in reforestation, drainage, construction of automobile roads, etc. Its real aim, however, has always been to prepare the German youth for military service, 5/ and as a consequence various weapons soon superseded the spade as the symbol of the Labor Service. 6/

1/ Reichsgesetzblatt, I, p. 769.

2/ Reichsgesetzblatt, I, p. 1747.

3/ Labor Service for Girls: Decree of 29 July 1941. The girls must serve another 6 months (Kriegshilfsdienst). See for details Muenchner Neueste Nachrichten, 8 July 1943.

4/ On the former position see Dr. Tschaksch, "Reichsarbeitsdienst und Recht," in Jahrbuch des Reichsarbeitsdiensts, Berlin, 1941, p. 106.

5/ See NSJB 1940.

6/ Compare Hermann Kretschmann, "Der Reichsarbeitsdienst der maennlichen Jugend" in Benze and Graefe Erziehungsmaechte and Erziehungshoheit im Grossdeutschen Reich, Leipzig, 1940, pp. 118-121.

III. THE REICH LABOR SERVICE IN OCCUPIED EUROPE

A. LABOR SERVICE AND ARMED FORCES

The Reich Labor Service is based on the statute of 26 June 1935, 1/ as amended on 8 September 1939. 2/ Three major executive decrees have been issued containing important provisions. The decree of the Ministerial Council for the Defense of the Reich of 20 December 1939, promulgated the continuation of the Labor Service during the war and made labor service the condition for service in the armed forces during the war.

We discuss here exclusively the male labor service although even girls are incorporated into the "second army." 3/ The Labor Service has emerged from the "Voluntary National Socialist Labor Service," and is now a Reich institution. Its chief is Konstantin Hierl, with the title "Reich Labor Leader," now also formally independent of the Reich Ministry of the Interior. 4/ Liaison with the National Socialist Party is established by the appointment of Hierl as Party Reichsleiter.

The Labor Service is divided into Arbeitsgaue which cover not only the Old Reich but the incorporated territory including the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia. Each Gau is subdivided into 6 to 9 Labor Groups, each Group into 5 to 8 Divisions (Abteilungen), a division is divided into troops, and a troop into platoons.

The Labor Service maintains a large number of schools for boys and girls.

The Labor Service was exclusively engaged in peaceful activities up to April 1938. It assisted in reforestation, drainage, construction of automobile roads, etc. Its real aim, however, has always been to prepare the German youth for military service, 5/ and as a consequence various weapons soon superseded the spade as the symbol of the Labor Service. 6/

1/ Reichsgesetzblatt, I, p. 769.

2/ Reichsgesetzblatt, I, p. 1747.

3/ Labor Service for Girls: Decree of 29 July 1941. The girls must serve another 6 months (Kriegshilfsdienst). See for details Muenchner Neueste Nachrichten, 8 July 1943.

4/ On the former position see Dr. Tschaksch, "Reichsarbeitsdienst und Recht," in Jahrbuch des Reichsarbeitsdiensts, Berlin, 1941, p. 106.

5/ See NSJB 1940.

6/ Compare Hermann Kretschmann, "Der Reichsarbeitsdienst der maennlichen Jugend" in Benze and Graefe Erziehungsmaechte and Erziehungshoheit im Grossdeutschen Reich, Leipzig, 1940, pp. 118-121.

The transformation of the Labor Service into a genuine auxiliary organ of the armed forces began in April 1938 when it assisted in the construction of the West Wall. 1/ With the outbreak of the war, the Reich Labor Leader and the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces entered into an agreement by which the Labor Service was placed completely at the disposal of the armed forces. 2/ Though it thus became subject to military discipline and to almost the entire legislation applying to members of the armed forces (such as military tribunals, military penal law, and legislation pertaining to disabled or killed soldiers), a decree of the Army High Command makes it quite clear that Labor Service members do not thereby become soldiers. 3/ On the other hand, the Amt fuer Technik und Unterkunft (Office for Technology and Shelter) of the Labor Service assumed the function of an army agency and was vested by the Army with the procurement of barracks. 4/ The Chief of the Office, General Labor Service Leader Kuenzel, was finally made National Commissioner for Timber Construction not only for the military but also the civilian sector.

From the spring of 1940 on, formations of the Labor Service have been placed under military commanders and have assisted in various military tasks. Their functions are authoritatively defined: "to assist the combatant forces in all and everything that does not directly belong to military operations" and to be "a pathbreaker of the armed forces."

From the outbreak of the war to the spring of 1940, the Labor Service had lost its identity as a separate organization. At Hitler's request, however, the Labor Service was re-established as a separate organization. 5/

B. STRUCTURE

At the same time, the Labor Service was functionally reorganized. The following functional divisions are now distinguished:

(a) Motorized light units

(b) Construction companies

(c) Building columns (Kolonnen)

(d) Heavy road building companies

1/ Dr. Decker, Chief of Staff of the Reich Labor Leader, "Der Kriegseinsatz des Reichsarbeitsdienstes," in Reichsverwaltungsblatt," Vol. 64, 7 January 1943, p. 1.

2/ Jahrbuch, 1941, p. 14.

3/ Heeresverordnungsblatt, Part C, Number 62, 5 October 1939, and Number 77, 5 December 1939.

4/ Decker, "Der Kriegseinsatz der R A D," in Reichsverwaltungsblatt Vol. 64, 7 January 1943, p. 1.

5/ Jahrbuch, 1941, p. 18.

(28268)

(e) Railroad construction companies

(f) Supply companies

(g) Air force construction companies

The graded structure of the Labor Service during operations is now:

(a) Companies, the lowest units

(b) Battalions

(c) Abschnittbaustaebe (Divisional Construction Staffs)

(d) Oberbaustaebe (Superior Construction Staffs) 1/

C. OPERATIONS IN OCCUPIED EUROPE

The first task that the Labor Service performed for the armed forces was the construction of airports, especially in Norway, and other work for the airforce. There were soon other tasks. The Labor Service helped in loading and unloading of munitions, in building roads, and even fought when necessary. The Labor Service operates also in the Rear Army Zone and in occupied territory.

It is there closely coordinated with the local Labor Service organizations in occupied countries.

Labor service laws are enacted:

Denmark:	The Labor Service is merely a function of Danish Nazi Party. For boys and girls.
Norway:	Leader: General Froelich Hanssen.
Holland:	Service in NAD camps. Service still voluntary. Leader: de Bock
Belgium:	Flemish Labor Service under Vin Thillo. Walloon Service under Bauchau.
France:	Law on Compulsory Labor Service. But no Labor Service proper.
Government General:	The Baudienstverordnung of 1 December 1940 established compulsory labor service for all non-Germans between the ages of 16 and 60. No Labor Service proper.
Croatia:	Law of 31 July 1942. Leader: General Polcic.
Serbia:	Every Serb between the ages of 17 and 45.
Bulgaria:	Exists since 1920.
Protectorate:	Compulsory labor, but no Labor Service proper.

Eastern Occupied Territories -

Ukraine: For boys and girls, for two years.

1/ Jahrbuch, 1941, p. 18

Ostland: Same.

For Volksdeutsche: Every Folk Group has a German Labor Service, both for girls and boys. The Labor Service of the Volksdeutsche is modelled after German patterns.

Liaison between the local Labor Service organizations and government institutions, and the German Labor Service is maintained by delegates of the German Labor Service in occupied territories.

The following delegates have been identified:

Holland:	Gretschmann
Luxemburg:	Fonck
Norway:	Bormann, Pirogner
Government General:	Hinkel
Slovakia:	Prager
Rumania:	von Stettin-Erb
Croatia:	von Haller

IV. THE TECHNISCHE NOTHILFE (TN) IN OCCUPIED EUROPE

A. STRUCTURE AND STRENGTH OF THE TN

The Technische Nothilfe (Technical Emergency Help) was founded after the revolution of 1918 as a kind of government sponsored and controlled strike-breaking organization for the operation of railroads and public utilities in case of disturbances and industrial disputes. It was composed primarily of university students and served as a kind of nuclear organization for anti-democratic movements among students. Its influence declined steadily after 1923.

Its role changed after Hitler's access to power. It was transformed in 1933 into a "Hilfsorgan" (auxiliary organ) of the police 1/ and was placed directly under the Order Police. The national leadership of the TN was transformed into a "Reichsamt TN" within the Hauptamt Ordnungspolizei. Its order chief is Schmelcher, an SS Brigade Leader, and Major General of the Police. 2/ The TN had, early in 1942, 105,000 members.

The activities of the TN were placed on a statutory basis by the Act of 25 March 1939, which defined its function as follows: "To give technical assistance in fighting public emergencies and to fulfill certain tasks in the defense of the country and in air raid protection."

Functionally, the following branches of the TN operate in Germany.

Technischer Dienst (Technical Service) to be used for the operation of "lebenswichtiger Betriebe," i.e., plants of vital importance, especially public utilities.

Bereitschaftsdienst (Emergency Service) for fighting catastrophes; units, therefore, which are in a perpetual state of "readiness" and can be employed whenever necessary.

Instandsetzungsdienst (Repair Service) for repairing air raid damage.

Outside Germany:

TN Abteilungen des Feldeinsatzes (TN Sections in the field) in the Army Rear Zone.

TN Taucher (TN Divers) operating in Russia, especially on the Dnieper.

All these branches are composed of Germans, primarily those who have a technical training or are students at technical colleges.

1/ See Hans Weinreich, "Die europaeische Aufgabe der Technischen Nothilfe" in Reichsverwaltungsblatt, Vol. 64, 4 March 1943.

2/ The deputy chief is Major General of the Police Siebert, Berliner Boersenzeitung, 20 November 1942.

Recently, however, foreigners have been mobilized for the German TN (not to be confused with foreign TN's). In the Reich Commissariats Ostland and Ukraine, Pionierschutzmannschaften (Engineer Protection Corps) have been formed of Ukrainians under the supervision of German TN officials.

The TN since October 1942 has worn the uniform of the Order Police (Schutzpolizei). The only difference will be a black Abzeichentuch and collar Spiegel, in addition to the traditional TN badge. 1/

B. TN AND POLICE ON THE REGIONAL LEVEL

In the spring of 1943 2/, closer coordination between the TN and the Police was achieved on the regional level. A decree of the Minister of the Interior (4 May 1943) deals with the incorporation of the regional TN units into the regional organization of the Order Police. The leaders of the Landesgruppen of the TN are placed under the Inspectors of the Order Police and, thereby, obtain the functions of Bereichsinspektuere (Area Inspectors) of the TN. They belong to the staff of the Order Police Inspector and are his advisers for all technical questions, especially in the fields of plant security, fight against catastrophes, air raid protection, etc. In spite of their being placed under the Order Police, the regional TN leaders remain the superiors of all TN units in their regions, while Schmelcher remains the highest superior of all TN units. The amalgamation of the lower TN units with the Ort and Kreis police authorities is not contemplated. This is probably due to the fact that there are but few local TN units. The kernel is the regional groups (Landesgruppen) which form a kind of readiness service to be used locally wherever needed.

C. TN IN ARMY REAR ZONE AND DURING OPERATIONS

A similar coordination of TN and police work has been carried out in the Rear Army Zones. TN Abteilungen des Feldeinsatzes (TN Sections in the Field) are placed below the Higher SS and Police Leaders of the rear army zones. 3/

During military operations, the TN units stand entirely at the disposal of the army which, especially during the Polish campaign, organized the TN units into Technische Kommandos (Technical Commands). 4/ They advanced with the combatant forces into enemy territory and were charged with restoring destroyed or damaged plants, especially utilities, immediately after cessation of fighting.

The drain on manpower made it mandatory for the Germans to establish native TN organizations which could be incorporated into the German control pattern.

1/ Muenchner Zeitung, 13 October 1942, News Digest, No. 958.

2/ Der Neue Tag, 15 May 1943.

3/ Weinreich, op. cit.

4/ Oberbaurat P. Muench, Commander of a Technical Command, "Einsatz der Technischen Kommandos in Warschau," in VDI, Zeitschrift Des Vereins Deutscher Ingenieure," Vol. 84, No. 8, 24 February 1940, and above.

Such native TN organizations have been identified in

Norway 1/	(Teknisk Noedhjaelp) and a German TN Befehlsstelle with the Commander of the Order Police, Norway 2/
Holland 3/	(Technische Noodhulp)
Eastern Occupied Territory	German TN units - see above
Poland	apparently in the Technische Verwaltung directed by the Technische Zentralamt, Cracow, established there in 1943; leader: SS Standartenfuehrer Bauder.
Protectorate	Bereitschaftsfuehrer Eisner, head of the TN in Bohemia-Moravia.

1/ Plain, Stockholm, 28 May 1943, and Aftenposten, 11 May 1943.

2/ Drentsch Dagblad, 3 April 1943, News Digest.

3/ Bruesseler Zeitung, 5 July 1943.

(28268)

V. THE NATIONAL SOCIALIST MOTOR CORPS (NSKK) IN OCCUPIED EUROPE

The NSKK provides the supply service for all the above-mentioned semi-military organizations, especially the OT. Two such NSKK units existed: the NSKK Transport Brigade Speer and the NSKK Transport Brigade Todt. The former, originally only a Standarte (regiment) was established for the supply of the Construction Squad Speer but soon assisted in the supply of the Army and Air Force. The latter served as the supply organization for the OT. Both brigades were merged after Todt's death into the NSKK Transport Group Todt, which is divided into NSKK Transport Regiments, and possesses a reserve detachment in Berlin. 1/

Training is carried out in a Leadership School (Fuehrerschule) located near Berlin on the river Havel. Training is today entirely military for Panzersoldaten. Technical skill is acquired in a number of Lehrstaetten (training areas) and Motorschulen (motor schools).

The NSKK's function is thus a dual one: to fight with the German army, and to be responsible for all motor vehicle transportation for the OT, that is, for the transportation of workers and building materials and for the courier service 2/.

The strength of the NSKK is unknown, though before the outbreak of the war it had a membership of 500,000 men. The NSKK vehicles are marked with a special sign "OT." 3/

NSKK units abroad:

Protectorate: Motorgruppe Egerland includes Standarten M241 at Prague and M202 at Troppau. Leader: SA Obergruppenfuehrer Mueller-Seyffert, who is also liaison officer of the NSKK together with the Reich Protector.

Government General: There are more than 24 Motorstuerme and many Base Points. Leader: Oberfuehrer Przybilla.

France: Standartefuehrer: Paris, Champs Elysees. Mentioned are a NSKK transport unit on the Atlantic Wall and a NSKK Motor Sturm Luftwaffe, recruiting Frenchmen for the German Air Force.

1/ National Zeitung, 3 July 1943.

2/ Voelkischer Beobachter, 19 April 1943.

3/ Ostseezeitung, 16 January 1943.

(28268)

VI. FIRE PROTECTION POLICE REGIMENTS

All TN, OT, and Labor Service units, whether German or native, are assisted by other German Order Police formations, especially the Fire Protection Police. This police arm, created by the statute of 23 November 1933, is now fully under the supervision of the Order Police and forms one of its branches. 1/ Just as Schupo formations engage in combat under their police officers as SS and Police Regiments, so also do the Fire Police Formations fight as Fire Protection Police Regiments. 2/ These regiments supplement the work by the above-mentioned units whenever their special skills are needed in fire fighting, especially for oil dumps and wells. Such a Fire Protection Regiment was last mentioned in Holland, assisting in overcoming the consequences of the Rotterdam air raid. 3/

1/ For details see Major of the Fire Protection Police Dipl. Ing. Lurf "Feuerschutzpolizei," in Die Deutsche Polizei, 1 January 1942.

2/ Police Captain Dipl. Ing. Silert "Das Feuerschutz-polizeiregiment Sachson," in Die Deutsche Polizei, 1 January 1941.

3/ Drentsch Dagblad, 3 April 1943, News Digest No. 1109.

(28268)